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NEWSLETTER

Witches International Craft Associates

WITCHCRAFT MAGAZINE

Witches Liberation Movement

"WITCHCRAFT: THE OLD RELIGION" MYSTIC ARTS BOOK CLUB NO. #1 SELECTION

So far Dr. Martello's new book is getting wonderful response across the country. Translations and foreign rights being negotiated. Paperback edition won't be available till 1975. There is much material in the book that has not appeared in any other Witchcraft book, i.e., the chapter on Charles Godfrey Leland, "Sicilian Witchcraft," Malta etc. The only ones I HAVEN'T heard from are Theos & Phoenix, Gardnerians interviewed in the book, whom I quote VERBATIM. So there can be no complaint there. As to Gardner & his apologists I TOLD THE TRUTH. Even at that I was charitable! If the Old Religion is to have a future it cannot be built upon a foundation of deception.

Dear Dr. Martello:

Last night Tim Zell gave me a review copy of your WITCHCRAFT: THE OLD RELIGION to review for the GREEN EGG. I stayed up half the night and am now 3/4th way through, and I simply had to write you and tell you how impressed I am with the book. It's one of the finest books on the Craft that I have read for a long, long time. It certainly deserves a rave review in GE, and will get one. I don't often get wildly enthusiastic about a book -- especially in view of all the "witch-crap" books that are out now -- but your new book is one that I hope will enjoy a great success among the general public. It will convince many people that Witches do not hold mass orgies to the tune of "She'll Be Comin' Round the Mountain!"

Your book is what we have needed for a long time. I'm sorry that more people didn't co-operate with you. My coven is small and I don't want to be swamped with requests for training. I have no desire to be a "Witch Queen" for many years yet. That jealousy and dogma could keep people from seeing

what a valuable service, indeed how many valuable services, you have rendered the Craft. It saddens me to think how any Witch could be so petty.

May you live long and prosper.

CAROLYN CLARK, High Priestess
CHURCH OF ALL WORLDS

DESCENT OF THE GODDESS INTO THE UNDERWORLD: This Legend is used by many Craft Traditions. Its origins is over 3000 years old. See story of Demeter, Persephone & Pluto in chapter "SICILIAN WITCHCRAFT" in my new book. All of SICILY was dedicated to Demeter (Geres) her favorite home. Her most famous Temple was in ENNA (now called Castrogiovanni) where Persephone was abducted by Pluto into underworld. Guides still point out the Cave near Lake Pergusa where this allegedly happened centuries ago. My grandmother was born in Enna.

WITCHES ENCOUNTER BUREAU (WEB)...Craft Contacts, Correspondence...\$1 Listing

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QUESTIONS & ANSWERS: Q. May I have address of Robert Cochrane who wrote "The Craft Today" in #2 The Pentagram? A. Sorry but Mr. Cochrane has passed on. He was one of ENGLAND's few Hereditary Witches and a friend of my own friends there....Q. I plan to visit Australia & New Zealand. Can you give me addresses of any Witches there? A. I cannot give out addresses without permission. I will pass on your request. There are Hereditary Witches in both countries (and other kinds). One Hereditary Witch lives in Auckland, New Zealand & his relatives still conduct covens in England (Essex, Dorset & Devon.)Q. Does the female Witch always head the coven? A. NO! Only in Gardnerian & Neo-Gardnerian covens (including some who call themselves "Traditional.")....Q. Is it true that Gerald Gardner was never given the 3rd degree? A. YES! The coven into which he was "initiated" may have been "traditional" (whatever that is) but it was NOT Hereditary. There are NO DEGREES IN HEREDITARY WITCHCRAFT. This was adapted from the Masons who have a system of 33 degrees. Gardner's early associates were Co-Masons (founded by daughter of Annie Besant, the Theosophist, to admit females.) I could say what does exist...but I won't. I prefer to let all these self-styled "covens" trip themselves up over their own ignorance and self-deception. Many calling themselves "Celtic" "Traditional" or "Hereditary" aren't expressing FACT but PHANTASY!....Q. Do you know of a Sylvia who was connected in the early days with Gardner? A. Yes. She knew "Lady Olwen" well too. Broke away from them. Even worked with Alex Sanders and Ray Bone. She was a High Priestess. Had all of their "Book of Shadows" so was in unique position to know ALL of the "inner workings." She turned them all over to her ex-boyfriend (a Hereditary Witch) who gave them to me.....Q. Is it true that you have also been initiated into a Gardnerian coven? A. No comment!.....Q. Most modern Crafters insist that only a female can initiate a male Witch and vice versa. Is this true? A. Yes, it's true in Gardnerian and Neo-Gardnerian covens. It is NOT true in Hereditary British Witchcraft. The "Magister" or leader could initiate both men and women..... Q. Since the Gardnerians claim to be of Celtic origin I would assume that the name of their Goddess is also Celtic. Is this true? A. NO. It is NOT Celtic. Read letter of "Tom Merlin" in WITCHCRAFT? THE OLD RELIGION where he claims that Gardnerian Craft to be "primarily Celtic." His original High Priest Ray Buckland has written "The rites and beliefs as he (C. G. Leland) speaks of them--and as I know them personally through the coven to which Gardner belonged, and other covens practising in the U. S. today--follow closely the general outlines of the Italian witches' worship." "Tom Merlin" is another alias of Ed "Fitch", "EA" and "Phil Hughes." I suggest that you read and study the Italian "Gospel of the Witches" ARADIA first pub. in 1894. Gardner was born June 13, 1884 making him 10 years old at the time!!! I have nothing against sincere Gardnerians personally. But I will oppose those who try to distort the truth. The smear campaign against me was initiated by a "Gardnerian" and one of his brainwashed people recently wrote me that he "heard awful things about me." I bet! Among the choice items was that I was "a rip-off of Craft material." That was just too funny since HIS Goddess is a rip-off from the Latins. WE HAD IT FIRST. As is his "book." Translate "Latin" into ITALIAN!!!

CRAFTINGS: A specialist in 2nd hand used books on Craft, ESP, etc. is **ANTHONY M. EGAN**, 172 East 4th St; New York, N.Y. 10009. For his free Newsletter & Book List send him 16¢ in stamps..... **Ripley's MUSEUM OF WITCHCRAFT & MAGIC**, Fisherman's Wharf, 235 Jefferson St; San Francisco, Cal. opened officially on Friday, July 13th, '73. They bought out the **WITCHES MILL** on Isle of Man, the Gerald B. Gardner collection, from his heir Monique Wilson "Lady Olwen." Valued at \$350,000. West Coast Witches who have seen the exhibit feel that it's too carnivalesque. However, the artifacts are the same ones exhibited by Gardner & the Wilsons.....Three of my books, **WEIRD WAYS OF WITCHCRAFT**; **BLACK MAGIC**, **SATANISM & VODOO**, and **UNDERSTANDING THE TAROT** go into **HARDCOVER** by year's end.....**WITCHCRAFT: THE OLD RELIGION** is already published. All advance orders have been filled. As soon as you order it the book will be sent promptly: \$8.23 per copy..... The last living son of one of England's oldest Hereditary Witch families has authorized me to publish the truth about the Hereditary Witches in a future book citing all of Gardner's sources, his early associates and coven members, the Aleister Crowley-written portions of the Gardnerian **BOOK OF SHADOWS**, those things inserted by others such as Rule 44 "Any of the third may claim to found a new coven..." (Also in Alexandrian **BOOK** and Lady Sheba's), and says "My Hereditary relatives would like to see a published refutation of this ridiculous allegation." My Hereditary Witch friend and family also do not want to be identified or confused with those who call themselves Traditional or Traditionalist. Can't say more! *****

QUESTION: I saw your AD in **FATE**. Why is the price of your course so low? Can one truly become a Witch after taking your course? **ANSWER:** Opposite is AD which will appear in many national publications. I had nothing to do with low price, or where AD appears. AD says "Learn how to become a Witch". No one can guarantee it. Low price enables course to reach thousands. Gives basics, sets students on right path, turns them on to correct Craft theology. Course is a synthesis of many traditions. You can study a course on electronics but it doesn't mean that you are an electrician. Depends upon individual. Present course consists of only 5 lessons, There may be Postgraduate Course, Newsletter, Chapters set up all over U.S. and abroad. It will be considered successful when there are 100,000 students. The course is the first step in establishing a nationwide network of **NEW OLD RELIGIONISTS** dedicated to the Old Ways, the Goddess and the Horned God, a screening process to select those worthy of to eventually be initiated into the Craft and competent to conduct covens.

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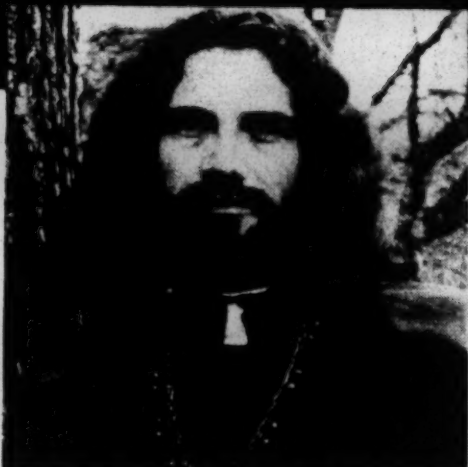
The author of the course is Dr. Leo Louis Martello, scion of an ancient family of Italian-Sicilian witches, Elder of four different Witchcraft Traditions and High Priest of the Old Religion. Author of **WITCHCRAFT: OLD RELIGION**, Dr. Martello has packed over 25 years of experience as a practicing witch into this extraordinary course. He explains ALL... so clearly that anyone can start practicing real witchcraft from the very first day. There have been books on witchcraft before, but never before have there been at-home lessons on how to become a witch—revealed by a genuine witch himself!

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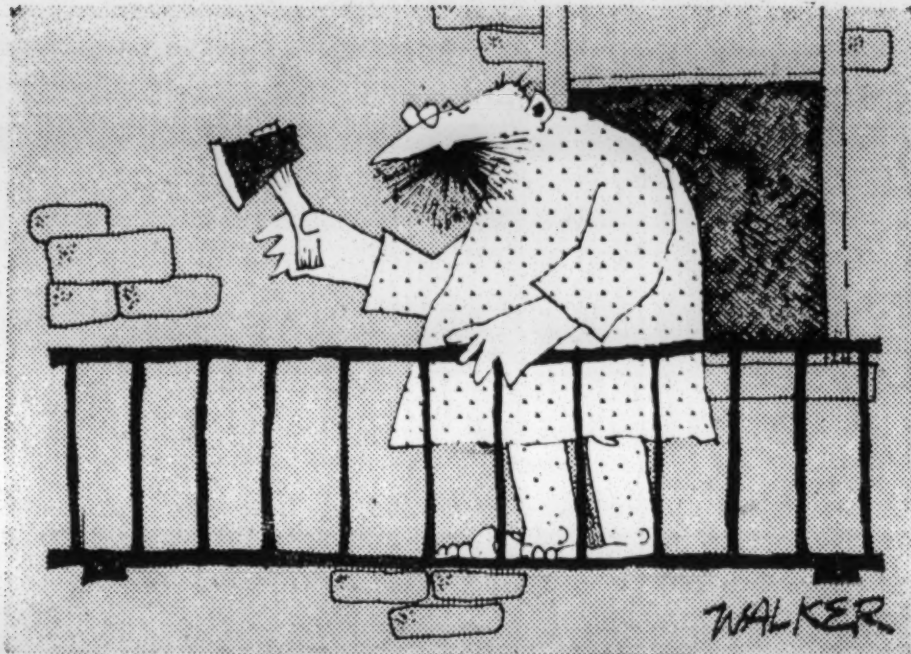
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A wise son maketh a glad father

By LOU D'ANGELO

One day, years ago, after it had become apparent that I wasn't going to grow to a very imposing height, my father reassured me by quoting the old Sicilian proverb, **The short tree bears good fruit; cut the tall tree at the roots.** My brother Jimmy, who was 10 years older and a foot taller than I, betrayed apprehension at this, so my mother thought to calm him with another proverb. **The tall one for his presence, the short one for his wisdom.** It was my grandfather who prevented Jimmy from dissolving into tears. He complimented him with a third Sicilian proverb. **The hairy man is fortunate.** At the time, my brother was already shaving every other day.

The meaning of these proverbs was fairly clear. But a more typical saying went, **King Solomon, for all his sapience, died without assistance.** When I asked my grandfather to explain that one, he told me, "The ancients said, **Things there are, but we are not obliged**

to believe them." That was the most quoted Sicilian proverb of all.

What the ancients probably meant was that the Sicilian beliefs in witchcraft, ghosts, and evil omens were not sanctioned by the ecclesiastical authorities. In our corner of the new world, this pronouncement served as an all-purpose comment on everything from small pleasures to major catastrophes. My grandmother, particularly, repeated it several times a day.

The ancients had their biggest moment in our East Harlem railroad flat at 3 o'clock one morning, a few minutes after an attempted robbery. A noise in the kitchen had awakened my grandfather, who leaped from under the covers, grabbed the wood-chopping hatchet he kept under his cot, and gave chase. When, nightshirt flying, he bounded onto the fire escape, ready to chop the would-be robber down to size, he found no one there. It was

SICILIAN FOLKLORE

very odd, because our fire escape had no opening in it, and no ladder.

Terrible in his frustrated wrath, he woke everybody up with some of the most blood-curdling yells heard since the Sicilian Vespers. My grandmother, a sound sleeper who did not awaken graciously under any circumstances, cast doubt on my grandfather's story. "The ancients said, **The wise man schemes, the lazy man dreams.** You had a nightmare."

My offended grandfather came back at her. "The ancients said **Beware of the marked woman.**" (My grandmother had a small mole on the back of her neck.) "They also said, **Head that sleeps more than three hours, step on it.**"

"The hunchback sees other's infirmities, but not his own," my grandmother shot back.

"The ancients were right," said my grandfather, "The bad year may be late in coming, but it always comes."

"He who sits uncomfortably thinks evil thoughts," said my grandmother, in a masterpiece of Sicilian relevancy.

"The nagging wife is a cross for life," my grandfather answered.

"Not necessarily in this country," my father broke in.

At that critical point, I came to my grandfather's defense. I had heard the commotion that preceded his bawling reveille. I said, My grandmother fixed me with a betrayed look. She asked how any burglar could disappear from a fire escape such as ours.

"Things there are, but we are not obliged to believe them," I said. She nodded thoughtfully, or maybe just sleepily, and went back to bed.

—PHOENIX NEST

Dear Leo:

Before I say anything else, let me say 'Bravo'. Your **WITCHCRAFT: THE OLD RELIGION** is, I think, the best you've ever written. It's full of fantastic facts and illuminating information. We've sold out already. We're ordering more. It is an excellent primer for anyone interested in the Craft, Again I say 'Bravo!'.

Blessed Be

Ed Buczynski "Hermes"

High Priest, Welsh Traditionalist Covens

NOTE: Ed Buczynski is interviewed in above book as are Gardnerian High Priestess & Priest, Theos and Phoenix. **ADVANCE COPIES AVAILABLE.** If you want Autographed please say so otherwise books aren't. \$8.23 per copy from WICA.....
Make checks Payable to: Dr. Leo Martello

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